



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County**  
**Teacher Study Group Grant Award**  
**Summer 2009-2010**  
**FINAL REPORT**  
**DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

**STUDY GROUP TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_ Units of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**List of group members:** Michele Fye, Stephanie Frisbie, Karen Shannon, Heather Badger-Brown

**Describe the initial objectives of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.**

Our initial objectives were to read and discuss the Units of Study and form a plan for implementation in our classrooms. We wanted to be ready to set up writer's workshops in our classrooms.

We had to make several adjustments along the way. First, we took on more than we could accomplish during the sessions of this study group. Part of this was due to us needing to understand the basics of

Writers Workshop before going into the individual units of study. After this basic understanding, we carefully and deliberately worked our way through part of the first book, *Launching the Writing Workshop*.

**Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.**

First, we read and discussed the first book in the series. This book gave useful background information that was necessary to learn before beginning the first unit of study. We decided how each of us would organize ourselves and get prepared. Then we started to read and discuss the first unit of study. We made a timeline of the first 17 lessons to guide us at the beginning of the year.

**Describe how the action plan was implemented.**

We assigned readings that each member was responsible for prior to each meeting. These were discussed at each meeting. We also found resources on the internet including mini lesson format forms and an assessment rubric. The full program will be implemented when school starts in September.

**Evaluate the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance. How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?**

This study has made a huge impact on us as teachers. We have learned a new approach to teaching writing in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be including writing instruction in our daily lessons in contrast to the sporadic writing samples in the past. We will be more accountable for the writing our students produce because of the structured program.

**What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?**

Student's achievement will be seen on the NYS tests and in writing samples. Students will be more prepared and confident in their writing. We expect the quality of students writing to improve drastically based on the concepts of this program.

**What evidence is there that the objectives of the study group has/has not been met?**

Due to the timing of this study group, during the summer, we do not have evidence that the writers workshop will work with our students. However, we do have evidence of teacher learning because each member of the group has basic knowledge to implement Writers Workshop in their classroom including extensive knowledge of the mini lesson format.

**Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?**

The study group process was highly valuable to us. We were able to read, discuss, and process the information together. The core of the study group was listening to each other's opinions and experiences with writing. It worked well and we appreciate the opportunity to learn together.

How will the study group information be shared?

We are prepared to share the information with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers in our district. We are also willing to teach a workshop at the Teacher Center.